



SPANISH LITERACY PROGRAM KEEPS DCE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

By **Matthew Smith**

DCE has joined a select group in the educational community by offering special learning opportunities to Hispanic inmates in the adult prison system. DCE recently became the first state correctional education system in the United States to offer *Plaza Comunitara*, a Spanish literacy program. Inmates who complete the program will be given accreditation by Mexico and this

is a terrific advantage, said DCE Senior Assistant Superintendent for Adult Academic Programs, **Judy Philpott**. "A vast majority of them will be deported back to the land of origin after serving their sentences in prison," Ms. Philpott said. "The importance of the program is not only to educate the individuals but also to give them a better chance of employment and to increase the likelihood of them establishing a stable life in their native land."

The effort represents a collaboration between DCE and the Department of Corrections,

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The Mexican Embassy's **Juan Antonio Longueira**, left, and an inmate-tutor.



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES HONORED



Billy Clarke, shown with his wife, **Loran**, was one of six employees honored at the Outstanding Employee Luncheon held June 24 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. More pictures and information begin on Page 6.

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Graduation Scenes 2005



Thunder Ridge Celebrates First Graduation

On June 17, Thunder Ridge High School celebrated the first formal graduation ceremony held at the institution since it was established as a juvenile correctional center in 1964. Mr. **Felipe Cabacoy**, left, Chairman of the Board of Correctional Education, gave the commencement address, focusing upon the importance of the graduates' understanding of themselves, the graduates' learning from their mistakes and of their willingness to complete difficult tasks. Mr. Cabacoy left the graduates and indeed all of the students in attendance with a clear sense of direction and a map to follow toward future success.

Greenville

On May 27, 288 students were recognized for academic and vocational achievement during the past year. Two Associate Arts Degrees were conferred by Southside Virginia Community College during Greenville Correctional Center's annual formal graduation. Other academic certificates included 81 GEDs and 62 Functional Literacy Certificates and 145 Career & Technical Education certificates. Four Honor GED graduates were recognized for outstanding scores of over 3000 on the GED Test. Shown, right, during ceremonies is Principal **John Ausbon**.



John H. Smyth High School

On June 10, 13 students at Smyth High School received DCE diplomas. One student was recognized for scoring the highest in the state on an Advanced Placement Latin exam. Shown, left, congratulating a student is CAD Instructor **William Wilson**.

Getting to Know...DCE's Advisory Councils

SAC

Submitted by:
Jay Truex, SAC Co-Chairman

The Staff Advisory Council (SAC) is made up of individuals who represent the interests of the DCE employees. We exist to work with, and through, the Central Office staff to aid the department in operating in a competent and professional manner, and, when necessary, to influence change in policies, procedures and programs for the benefit of the Virginia Department of Correctional Education. We are charged with bringing forth issues that the staff feels may need addressing. This allows us a chance to voice concerns directly to the Superintendent through the Co-Chairs and empowers us to offer solutions to our perceived problems. SAC also provides a resource by allowing the field to offer initiatives and become involved in innovative matters. Each region (all facilities under the supervision of a single principal) has a representative from each major institution (correctional center) and one representative for all other institutions (field units, diversion centers, detention centers, day reporting centers, work centers, etc.) in that region. These representatives are elected by the employees at their institutions. Elections for these representatives occur every two years. In order to ensure that all interests are served, the council is comprised of employees in

various positions. Academic and vocational teachers, librarians, tester/evaluators, transition specialists, and I.E.P. coordinators are all eligible. The Staff Advisory Council exists to add value to DCE.

ASC

Submitted by:
Sherry Fraunfelter, Chair,
Vicki Bradley, Vice Chair

As Chair and Vice-Chair of the Administrative Support Staff Council (ASC), Sherry Fraunfelter and Vicki Bradley are a team. Sherry's work at Greensville Correctional Center (Adult) and Vicki's work at Reception & Diagnostic Center (Juvenile) places them at different ends of the spectrum, but they believe in

teamwork. They work together to bring issues to the table that are shared by all support staff. They strongly urge Support Staff to share their interests, ideas and concerns to be communicated at the monthly meetings. The Support Staff Council meets quarterly, and has three committees within its group: Compensation Committee, Support Staff Development Committee and Community Outreach Committee. Those committees consist of members who are working toward the goals set by each group.

Mr. **Eddie Weeks** has created a Staff Handbook that each support staff uses. Because of the guidelines of this manual each support person works as a vital member of a cohesive team.

Principals' Steering Committee



The Principals' Steering Committee serves as a liaison between DCE's adult field administrators and top management. Issues and informational matters are channeled through three people: **Ann Cavan**, principal of the Lunenburg cluster; **David Hunt**, right, principal of the Women's cluster; and **Sandy Parker**, left, principal of the Powhatan cluster.



Enrique Escorza, left, of the Mexican Embassy signs an agreement as DCE's **Judy Phipott** looks on.

continued from front page

the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Mexican Consulate in Washington, D.C. By terms of a formal agreement, the Mexican Consulate paid for all program materials and training.

The initiative began in the fall of 2004 and by January of 2005, a formal agreement was established, but before the formal agreement was set, training was given to five employees of DCE and one DOC employee. INEA staff gave the training which took place in the city of Pátzcuaro in Michoacán, Mexico.

The Coffeewood and Lunenburg correctional centers were chosen as the first two sites to receive the

program. In March of 2005, the wardens and principals of Coffeewood and Lunenburg along with Ms. Philpott and **W.P. "Buck" Rogers**, Director of the Central Region for the Department of Corrections, visited Cibola Correctional Center, a federal facility and deportation center in New Mexico, to observe an established version of the *Plaza Comunitaria* in action.

At this point, DCE has eight INEA-trained inmate tutors at each site. The majority of the tutors are from Hispanic countries. Currently **DuBois Miller, Anita Prince, Alan Brittle** and Ms. Philpott are getting ready to test the inmates wishing to enroll in the

program. The test will then be sent to the Mexican Consulate for scoring and the Consulate will evaluate the inmates' tests and place the inmates where they need to start in the program. Once in the program, inmates who complete modules will again be tested before being given accreditation by Mexico.

By implementing this program, DCE has placed itself on the cutting edge of literacy advancement in the United States. "This is exciting," Ms. Philpott said, "this is exactly where we need to be."

Fluvanna Women & Richmond Lions Recycle For Sight

By Matthew Smith

Bonnie Cutright's optical technology students at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women have joined forces with the *Richmond West Breakfast* Chapter of the Lions Club to help the needy by recycling eyeglasses. The students increase their skills while gaining a "live-work" experience, Ms. Cutright said.

The students clean, fix and repair the eyeglasses. They also gain valuable experience reading the prescriptions.

"This opportunity makes the students more proficient at reading prescriptions and gives the

students a wide variety of lenses and frames to work on. 'These kinds of lenses and frames would not normally be available,'" she said.

Once the students at Fluvanna finish with the glasses they are sent to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Inc. in Roanoke, Virginia, where the glasses are distributed to persons of need in the community and surrounding areas. A majority of the glasses are distributed outside the United States when different Virginia Lions Clubs go on missions. This effort began about three years ago when **Beverly Webb**, Chairman and

President of the *Richmond West Breakfast* Chapter, connected with Ms. Cutright through a mutual friend in Richmond. Ms. Cutright's students fix about 400 pairs of glasses a year, and Lions Eyeglass Recycling Inc. distributes thousands each year, Mr. Webb said.

Today Ms. Cutright's students are eager to learn and enthusiastic about the contribution they are making to people outside the confines of their facility. "They are very motivated about helping the community," she said.



DCE Wins Silver Award

DCE has received a Silver Award for its 35 percent participation in the recently completed *Healthy Virginians* campaign. "We were very pleased with the outstanding turnout," said **Patrice Johnson**, DCE's Healthy Virginians Coordinator, shown above with **Sarah Wilson**, Director of the Department of Human Resource Management.

DCE Attends Public Safety Diversity Fair

By Matthew Smith

Recently, all of the agencies under the Secretary of Public Safety met in Richmond for the Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair.

The fair allowed small business, women and minority suppliers to meet the different public safety agencies and make connections to further public safety agencies fulfillment of the Governor's mission in Executive Order 29.

Suppliers learned about the individual agencies and their specific needs.

Barbara Lee, Procurement Manager, **Anna Ferrell**, Buyer Specialist, **Antonio Kornegay**, Buyer, and **Hope Seigler**, Buyer Assistant and other DCE support staff attended.

Ms. Lee presented an overview of the agency.

Ms. Ferrell, Mr. Kornegay and Ms. Seigler represented the agency at a display table in the main area. Each member of DCE's procurement team received further recognition from the Secretary of Public Safety for the efforts and contributions to the fair.

Outstanding Employees 2005

Administrator of the Year

Paul Dianis

Mr. Dianis, principal of Brunswick Correctional Center, maintains a pro-active approach to his job and thus keeps many challenging situations from evolving into more difficult circumstances. Such was the case when he guided the conversion of Mecklenburg Correctional Center from a maximum security facility to a reception center. More recently, he orchestrated the implementation of educational offerings at the Brunswick Work Center. His nuanced approach keeps him abreast of school issues and ever effective with the Department of Corrections. Staff members credit him as a forward-thinking and supportive leader under whom they can function effectively and even flourish.



Outstanding Employees



AnnaBelle Ferrell

In nearly 30 years of service to DCE, Ms. Ferrell has demonstrated a strong work ethic and great energy in dealing with the varied aspects of her job. Most recently she has demonstrated her leadership abilities as President of the Virginia Association of Correctional Educators where she is constantly striving to promote professionalism in DCE and correctional education. She is known especially for her dedication and hard work in the varied aspects of that organization's events and activities. Ms. Ferrell is also an active member in a number of purchasing organizations and the Virginia Correctional Association. In the past year, she has assisted with policy changes related to the Commonwealth's new purchasing system, EVA.

Wendell K. Quash

The Smyth High School's JROTC program at Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center routinely receives honors for excellence, and its students rack up individual honors. Major Wendell Quash (Retired) initiated the program in September 1995. Repeatedly during inspections, Major Quash's students have posted outstanding scores, never below 99.3 percent, and the unit has twice received the award of "Honor with Distinction." The annual "Camp Cobra" is a unique display of military skills and expertise. Smyth's JROTC students have also participated in community activities. But perhaps the biggest benefit of the JROTC program in the correctional setting is the low rate of recidivism among participants.



Clarence “Eddie” Weeks

Eddie Weeks’ actions have touched every employee of DCE. Recently, he has taken on several duties that are beyond the scope of his job. A prominent example of this was his effort to help those less fortunate through his dedicated work on the Combined Virginia Campaign. This year DCE contributed \$18,325 to the recently completed campaign and won the Pinnacle Award for outstanding agency participation. DCE boasted a 42 percent participation which nearly doubles the statewide average. Mr. Weeks also made a substantial contribution to DCE in developing the Support Staff Manual. He has made another big contribution by working with the Payroll Services Bureau to ensure that paychecks are dispensed quickly and leave records are accurate and up-to-date.



Master Teachers

Cheryl “Cheri” Henderson

What sets Cheri Henderson apart as a Master Teacher is her extraordinary ability to make daily and substantial accomplishments with her students. Ms. Henderson teaches at Marion Correctional Treatment Center, a correctional facility that doubles as a mental institution. This does not deter or even seem to bother Ms. Henderson. And her students work, listen, read, write, and achieve much like those in an ordinary classroom. Many have special problems with reading, mathematics, social skills, and behavior yet they work, learn, and pass the literacy requirements and go on to earn their GEDs. Through many changes, she has remained constant. By working with these unique students, she not only has served as a catalyst for program improvement, but has redirected and focused the lives of many of our society’s less fortunate citizens.



Billy Clarke

As a classroom instructor at Halifax Correctional Center, Mr. Clarke has demonstrated exceptional classroom management and instructional skills. For the fiscal year 2003-2004, his outstanding performance in both the Functional Literacy and GED programs earned him special recognition as his students posted a 32 percent ASE level completion rate and an 89 percent GED passing rate. His students’ overall passing rate for the GED program was 90 percent. One of his students received recognition for scoring 3,000 or higher on the GED test. A score of 3,140 placed that student in the top 12 percent in the nation. His classroom presence, his rapport with his students and his instructional practices all serve to make him an example in the field of adult education.



Camp Cobra: Bringing the Heat

Unusually hot weather made for an interesting week at Camp Cobra at the John H. Smyth High School, where 72 cadets participated in this year's annual JROTC camp. However, no one could tell with, "The best camp we have ever had, with a 100 percent completion rate," said Camp Commander, Retired Colonel **Charles Thornton**. "We experienced very few discipline problems and noticed significant progress in all the cadets, and their attitudes were excellent," Colonel Thornton added.

Felipe Cabacoy, DCE Board Chairman, was this year's Closing Ceremonies Speaker. **Barry Green**, Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, also attended, along with some 90 family members of the cadets for the closing ceremony and picnic.

Cadets participated in physical aptitude training, specialized training (math and science), individual and unit drill competitions, and a mini Olympics, which included five on five basketball, volleyball competition and physical aptitude competition. Awards were given for individual, team building, leadership and athletic skills. cadets were also able to earn awards such as "Number One Cadet at Camp," "Distinguished Cadet," cadets in the top five percent, "Honor Cadet," cadets in the top 10 percent. Awards were also given to the "Best Platoon" and "Special Recognition Awards."



Ribbons and Colors

JROTC students earned medals, above, and showed colors, below, during the recent Camp Cobra.



College Bound

Goes National

On July 18, College Bound Program Coordinator, **Denwood Barksdale** and Transition Specialist, **Marion Curry** presented in Dallas at the annual conference of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

Their presentation, "From Incarceration to Success," highlighted DCE's College Bound Program, founded by Barksdale, and the Career Center, a brainchild of Curry. "The opportunity to present in Dallas,

for me, was a real blessing," said Barksdale, "because one of my dreams is to spread the College Bound Program to juvenile facilities throughout the United States," he added.

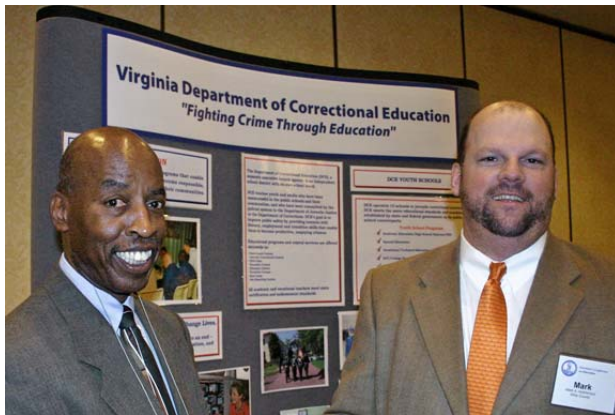
Receives \$3,000 Donation

Recently, the Beaumont Scholarship Committee received a \$3,000 donation from the John W. Kluge Foundation. The Beaumont Scholarship Committee serves students of

DCE's College Bound Program. The donation came after **Mrs. John W. Kluge** sat in on a committee meeting and learned the plight of one College Bound participant. Besides offering her assistance financially, Mrs. Kluge



also volunteers at the Paul S. Blandford School and the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center.



VSBA Conference

DuBois Miller, DCE's Assistant Superintendent for Adult Academic Programs, left, recently joined with Superintendent **Walter McFarlane** to present "Use It or Lose It: Applying Brain-Based Research to Education" at the 2005 Virginia School Board Association Governor's Conference on Education held July 19 in Richmond. Pictured with Miller is **Mark Hutchinson**, a DCE school administrator who also serves on the Wise County School Board.

Blandford Student Passes Barber Exam



A Paul S. Blandford High School student has earned his state license through the barber/cosmetology program at the institution. The program is funded by a Department of Labor grant program and is a partnership between the Department of Juvenile Justice and DCE to develop a Workforce Preparation Program at Blandford High School. **Franklin Harvey** and **Rick Ward** are the barber instructors in the program. Harvey says that before the student took the state exam, which he passed on the first try, "We spent the last 60 days in extensive training to pass the state board." The state exam includes practical tests such as shaving, haircutting with shears, permanent waving, chemical relaxers, chemical relaxers retouching, "virgin" highlighting and color retouch.

Meet the Interns



Pictured from Left to Right: (front row) Tiffany Johnson, Susan South, and Taryn Drake; (back row) Jeron Jones, and Matthew Smith.

Tiffany Johnson is a rising senior and a Psychology major at Longwood College. Tiffany is working with Jymm Turner as an Office Services Assistant.



Stephanie Floyd

Susan South is a graduating senior and an Anthropology and English major at Longwood College. Susan is working with Patrick Wilson as an Office Services Assistant.

Taryn Drake is a rising senior and a forensic science major at Virginia Commonwealth University. Taryn is working with Colleen McCabe as a Program Support Technician.

Jeron Jones is a rising junior and a special education major at Virginia Union University. Jeron is working with Roy Haliburton as a Teacher's Aide at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center Expansion.

Matthew Smith is a rising senior and a history major at Randolph-Macon College. Matt is working with Seward McGhee as a Program Support Technician.

Stephanie Floyd is working with Roy Haliburton as a Teacher's Aid at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center Expansion. Stephanie is a recent graduate of Virginia Union University and has a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Changes



Milo Howard is now DCE's Assistant Director of Special Education for Adult Programs.



Carolyn Ross is now DCE's Youth Transition Coordinator.

Upcoming Retirements

August 1

Gertrude N. Goode
Southampton Correctional Center
William F. Deniston
Greenville Correctional Center
Margarette E. Harrison
Greenville Correctional Center
J. Cary Houseman, Jr.
John H. Smyth High School

September 1

Karolyn L. Geigert
Buckingham Correctional Center

DCE Family Mourns the Loss of Two

Sadly, the DCE family recently lost two of its members. Assistant Superintendent for Youth Programs **Dr. Fannie Page** passed away on June 7. Little more than a month later, DCE lost **Lucile Mickens**, who had served most recently as an assistant principal at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women.



Dr. Fannie Logan-Page

“Dr. Page was a well-respected and highly-productive member of the Academic team,” said Deputy Superintendent of Academic Programs **Dr. Patricia Blair**. “Her professionalism was an example for all of us and her dedication to the DCE mission was evident. Her first thought was for our students, and she spent many hours in our schools working with principals and teachers. She never wavered in her faith that every child could learn. Our staff has experienced a great loss. We remember Dr. Page, her love of education and children, her wise advice, and her spirit of cooperation and collaboration. She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. We will continue in the memory of that wise and kindly spirit.”

On July 15, DCE lost Lucile Mickens, who had served in both the youth and adult prisons, most recently at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. She began her association with DCE in September of 1970, when the agency was known as the Rehabilitative School Authority. She started as a Social Skills and Special Education Teacher. She held a variety of positions during her career, serving as teacher, principal and administrator.



Lucile "Cil" Mickens

In 2002, she was named DCE's Administrator of the Year for her service at the Addison-Perkins High School at Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center. Among other things, she was recognized for her open style and her ability to improve her staff by encouraging growth, teamwork and productivity.

Ms. Mickens officially retired on July 1, shortly before her death.

DCE's Deputy Superintendent for Adult Operations **Belinda Friday** remembered her fondly. “Lucile loved to laugh. She would keep you in tears from laughter. She enjoyed traveling. She was well liked by many who came in contact or worked with her.”

DCE Today

A public information service of the

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Walter A. McFarlane, Superintendent
www.dce.state.va.us



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The Virginia Department of Correctional Education

DCE Today



Important Dates

Date

Event

August 24, 2005	VACE Conference begins
August 31, 2005	Youth School Convocation
September 15, 2005, 9 a.m.	Bland Graduation
September 16, 2005, 11 a.m.	Powhatan Graduation
September 23, 2005	Keen Mountain Graduation
September 23, 2005, 1 p.m.	James River Graduation
September 30, 2005, 1 p.m.	Deep Meadow Graduation
October 7, 2005, 9:30 a.m.	Haynesville Graduation
October 7, 2005, 1 p.m.	Brunswick Graduation

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